

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 56 minutes a.m.) the House stood in recess until 12 noon.

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. EVERETT] at 12 noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We are grateful, O loving God, for all the memories that have sustained and nourished our lives throughout our times. Specially we are indebted to those people whose attention has given us support and joy and assurance. We are appreciative of our families where tradition and heritage have motivated our endeavors and whose devotion is more than we could ask or expect. It is our prayer, O God, that we will gather together these remembrances that have been gifts to us and use them in our daily lives, now and evermore. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. KNOLLENBERG] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1854. An act making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendments to the bill (H.R. 1854) "An act making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. MACK, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. HATFIELD, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. MIKULSKI, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills and a joint resolution of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 638. An act to authorize appropriations for United States insular areas, and for other purposes;

S. 1023. An act to authorize an increased Federal share of the costs of certain transportation projects in the District of Columbia for fiscal years 1995 and 1996, and for other purposes; and

S.J. Res. 27. Joint resolution to grant the consent of the Congress to certain additional powers conferred upon the Bi-State Development Agency by the States of Missouri and Illinois.

#### KEEPING OUR PROMISES

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority in Congress is committed to keeping our promises for the American people. We pledge to reduce the size and scope of the Federal Government, balance the Federal budget, and lower taxes on working families. We also passed a budget resolution that eliminates the deficit by the year 2002. It also provides a \$245 billion tax relief segment to families, seniors businesses.

Currently we are in the process of implementing this plan. We are passing appropriations bills that cut wasteful spending, eliminate unnecessary programs and downsize bloated bureaucracies.

The President has also expressed his desire to eliminate the deficit. Strangely enough, however, he has submitted two budget proposals that produce \$200 billion in deficits as far as the eye can see. He helped kill the balanced budget amendment and he vetoed a \$16.4 billion rescission bill. Now he says he is threatening to veto our appropriations bills because they cut too much spending.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the American people understand the difference. I think they will see that the Republicans are right in downsizing the Government to increase their take-home pay.

#### LOBBY REFORM

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, in Texas we believe in giving credit where credit is due. Today I, as a Democrat, rise to salute and applaud the Republican majority leader, BOB DOLE, for allowing gift and lobbying reform measures to come before the U.S. Senate this week.

I believe that this is a great development for the American people, who will recall that in the waning hours of the last session a Democratic initiative for lobby reform was killed by Republicans to the cheers of lobbyists outside.

Senator DOLE has at least reluctantly agreed to the Democratic demands for a vote on measures severing the ties that bind lobbyists to legislators in this Congress.

Strangely, the Washington Times reports that the same thing is not happening here in the House of Representatives. Rather, they report that the House Republican leadership's agenda calls for no action on gift and lobby reform this year.

Students of Congress know that if we delay until next year, we will not get the reform we need.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Speaker GINGRICH and the Republican leadership to follow Senator DOLE's lead and reluctantly agree to Democratic demands that we address gift reform and lobby reform now and stop intimidating those who demand that we address them.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members not to make references to actions in the other body.

#### FAIRY TALES

(Mr. NORWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to spend some time with my grandchildren this past weekend, and like any good grandfather I read them fairy tales before bedtime. It made me think about the problems we have here in Washington. Some people have a hard time separating facts from fairy tales. It is simply a matter of fact that Medicare will go bankrupt in 7 years. It is a fact documented in a report put out by the Medicare Trustees, three of whom are members of the Mr. Clinton's administration. Anyone who tells you differently, well that is a fairy tale. The Republicans have made a decision to fix Medicare. We will strengthen Medicare so that it may survive well into the next century. That is a fact. We must act to save the system now. That is also a fact. Anyone who would tell you that Medicare is doing just fine, and that the Republicans are trying to fix a system that isn't broken, well, that is someone who has been reading way too much of Alice in Wonderland lately.

#### PARENTS DAY

(Mr. SPRATT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was Parents Day for the first time ever. A lot of us probably missed it. That is because by now we have a day for nearly every purpose under the sun. But this one, Parents Day, stands for something important: the importance of parents, our parents, in our own lives and in the life of our country.